

Message Text

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SUBJECT: REPORT ON PREPARATORY MEETING FOR AN AD HOC
MEETING OF TRADE EXPERTS TO CONSIDER THE TRADE ASPECTS OF
THE OVERALL ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE FOR THE ECE REGION UP
TO 1990

1. SUMMARY: THE PREPARATORY MEETING FOR AN AD HOC
MEETING OF TRADE EXPERTS ENCOUNTERED SMOOTH SAILING DUE
LARGELY TO THE EXPERT NAVIGATION OF THE SECRETARIAT, WHICH
HAD BEEN ELECTED TO THE CHAIR. THE DELEGATES AGREED TO
HOLD AN AD HOC MEETING OF TRADE EXPERTS TO CONSIDER THE
TRADE ASPECTS OF THE OEP IN JUNE 1979. NATIONAL GOVERN-
MENTS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO SUBMIT TO THE SECRETARIAT,
NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30, ILLUSTRATIVE ANNOTATED
BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF RELEVANT RESEARCH, COPIES OF STUDIES
OR SUMMARIES OF FINDINGS WHERE AVAILABLE, AS WELL AS TO
INDICATE PAPERS THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO PRESENT TO THE
EXPERTS MEETING IN JUNE. THE SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN GIVEN
THE TASK OF SURVEYING AND SUMMARIZING THE RESEARCH THAT
MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR THE MEETING, AND TO PRESENT BOTH
A DRAFT AGENDA AND A PROGRESS REPORT ON PREPARATIONS AT
THE 27TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF
TRADE. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE WESTERN OBJECTIVE OF ORGANIZING A MEETING WHICH
WOULD PERMIT THE PRESENTATION OF PAPERS DEALING WITH A
WIDE RANGE OF EAST-WEST TRADE ISSUES BY "INDEPENDENT"
EXPERTS, NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENTING GOVERNMENT PO-
SITIONS, WAS ACCEPTED BY THE EAST AFTER THE POLISH DELE-
GATE RAISED SOME HALF-HEARTED OBJECTIONS CONCERNING THE

DIFFICULTY THIS WOULD PRESENT OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT
PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS IN HIS COUNTRY.

3. THE ANTICIPATED EASTERN COMMENTS CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF POLITICAL OBSTACLES TO TRADE WERE NOT PARTICULARLY STRIDENT AND THE PROPOSED SUBSTANCE OF THE MEETING SHOULD NOT PROVIDE ANY MORE THAN THE USUAL (AND POSSIBLY SOMEWHAT LESS) OPPORTUNITY TO RIDE THAT PARTICULAR HORSE.

4. IN EXTENSIVE PRESENTATION BY THE US DELEGATION OF RELEVANT RESEARCH BEING UNDERTAKEN IN THE US ESTABLISHED A NUMBER OF ISSUES WHICH MIGHT BE RAISED, AND WHICH WERE INCORPORATED IN VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE, THUS OPENING THE DOOR FOR DISCUSSION IN SUCH AREAS AS LONGER TERM FINANCIAL ASPECTS, AND FORECASTS OF EXPORTS CAPABILITIES.

5. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISERS WERE EXPLICIT ABOUT THE UTILITY OF THE TRADE COMMITTEE UNDERTAKING SUCH A TASK, WITH WHICH THE DELEGATES AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING AGREED, ADDING, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROPOSED MEETING WOULD HAVE VALUE IN ITS OWN RIGHT.

6. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD DRAW UP AN AGENDA REFLECTING ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM
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NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING. A GENERAL OUTLINE FOR THE EXPERTS MEETING HAS, HOWEVER, EMERGED WHICH INCLUDES (1) MACRO ECONOMIC STUDIES OR FORECASTS FOR TRADE COVERING INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS; (2) STUDIES OR FORECASTS OF SPECIFIC PRODUCT GROUPS; AND (3) STUDIES OR FORECASTS OF THE EXPORT POSSIBILITIES OF PARTICULAR COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR GOODS. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE POINTS, THE SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO COMPARE METHODOLOGIES USED IN VARIOUS FORECASTS AND PRESENT THEIR FINDINGS AT THE MEETING.

7. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE SECTORAL DISCUSSIONS SHOULD FOCUS ON SECTORS NOT COVERED BY OTHER ECE PRINCIPLE SUBSIDIARY BODIES, IN EFFECT MEANING THAT THE PAPERS WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED WILL DEAL ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH MANUFACTURED GOODS (CAPITAL AND CONSUMER). HOWEVER, THE SECRETARIAT HAS VERBALLY PROMISED TO DRAW TOGETHER FOR USE AT THE EXPERTS MEETING SOME OF THE RELEVANT TRADE RELATED CONCLUSIONS OF THE OTHER PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES, SUCH AS THE TIMBER COMMITTEE AND THE COAL COMMITTEE. THIS LATTER WAS NOT REFLECTED IN THE

FINAL REPORT, HOWEVER, FOR REASONS OF INTERNAL ECE
POLITICS.

8. ACTION REQUIRED BY THE US: BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1978

(1) AN ILLUSTRATIVE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RELEVANT
RESEARCH, (2) COPIES OF RELEVANT STUDIES OR SUMMARIES
THEREOF, (3) LIST OF TOPICS ON WHICH WE ARE WILLING TO
PRESENT PAPERS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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